REMARKS

The Applicants presently note an error in enumeration of pending claims in the Office Action Summary of July 9, 2004. The status of Claims 16-18 is not indicated. Claims 16-18 remain pending and under consideration in the application as evidenced by the fact that the Office has withdrawn the rejection of Claims 16-18 as indicated on page 3 of the Office Action dated July 9, 2004. Unfortunately, the Applicants perpetuated this oversight in the Response and Amendment, filed August 27, 2004, which is responsive to new grounds of rejection of Claims 11-15 with the Office Action of July 9, 2004.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Office acknowledge the pendency of all of the Claims 11-18. Any inconvenience resulting from our reiteration of this unintentional oversight is regretted.

* * * *

Accordingly, entry of the previously submitted amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, withdrawal thereof, and passage of this application to issue are all hereby respectfully solicited.

It should be apparent that the undersigned attorney has made an earnest effort to place this application into condition for immediate allowance. If he can be of assistance to the Examiner in the elimination of any possibly-outstanding insignificant impediment to an immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call him at his below-listed number for such purpose.

Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

G. PATRICK SAGE, #37,710

2 U.S. Serial No. 10/018,373 Supplemental Response and Amendment for October 28, 2004 Merz 32 PCT US Dated: October 28, 2004 Customer No.: 25,666 500 Columbia Plaza 350 East Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3856 (269) 382-0030

Enclosure: Listing of Claims and Postal Card Receipt

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.